

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 13 and 27 have been amended.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20-23, 27, 28 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) on the grounds of anticipation by Briles. The Examiner indicated that as to Briles, the "collar" is read to be inclusive of the member (14), and that the sealing insert is "tightly sealed" entirely within the collar (read as including the collar and the captive washer) in the installed condition. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the internal shoulder having a surface defining a well," and the "internal sealing insert adapted to be tightly sealed entirely in the well of the swage collar between the internal shoulder of the swage collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the fastener when installed." Claim 13 has similarly been amended to recite the "internal sealing insert adapted to be tightly sealed entirely in the well of the swage collar between the internal shoulder of the swage collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the fastener when installed." Claim 27 has similarly been amended to recite "tightly sealing the sealing ring entirely within the well of the internal shoulder of the collar between the internal shoulder of the collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the pin."

In Fig. 2 of Briles, the enlarged base portion or flange 20 is shown as including an internal shoulder in which an upper portion 44 of the sealing insert is situated, with a lower portion 46 of the sealing insert extending below and outside the internal shoulder, as described at column 5, lines 31-36. In Fig. 4, showing the sealing insert compressed

when installed, a lower portion of the sealing insert is shown as remaining below and outside the internal shoulder of the enlarged base portion or flange. Briles suggests at column 9, lines 13-18 that the captive washer may not be employed as part of the nut assembly, but even in this suggested variation, Briles indicates that pressure control gates would be still used. The pressure control gates are described in Briles at column 6, lines 9-30, as being provided by a plurality of radially oriented grooves or channels 52, which allows sealing material to flow into the passages from their inner ends, which is clearly below and outside the internal shoulder of the collar, as shown in Fig. 4 of Briles.

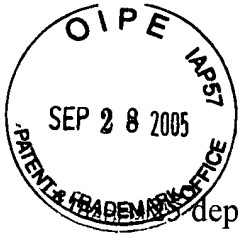
It is respectfully submitted that Briles does not teach, disclose or suggest an internal sealing insert adapted to be tightly sealed entirely in the well of a swage collar between an internal shoulder of the swage collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the fastener when installed, as is claimed, and that Claims 1, 3-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20-23, 27, 28 and 31-35 are novel and inventive over Briles. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20-23, 27, 28 and 31-35 on the grounds of anticipation by Briles should be withdrawn.

Claims 27, 28, 31, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour, cited to disclose the process in which a collar having an internal diameter larger than a pin is positioned on the pin, then plastically deformed inwardly to engage the shaft of the pin by a swaging tool. Claim 27 recites "a swage tool which mechanically forces the collar over the pin ... tightly sealing the sealing ring entirely within the well of the internal shoulder of the collar between the internal shoulder of the collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the pin."

It is respectfully submitted that Briles and Armour do not teach, disclose or suggest tightly sealing a sealing ring entirely within a well of an internal shoulder of a collar between the internal shoulder of the collar and the shaft of the fastener, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 27, 28, 31, 33 and 34 are novel and inventive over Briles and Armour, and that the rejection of Claims 27, 28, 31, 33 and 34 on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, 18, 19, 39 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Briles, or Briles in view of Armour, and further in view of Rath, which was cited as disclosing a collar made of aluminum or titanium. As noted previously, it is assumed that the Examiner intended to reject Claim 29 instead of Claim 39. Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1, Claims 18 and 19 depend from Claim 13, and Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 27. It is respectfully submitted that Briles, Armour, and Rath do not teach, disclose or suggest an internal sealing insert adapted to be tightly sealed entirely in the well of a swage collar between an internal shoulder of the swage collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the fastener when installed, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 5, 6, 18, 19, 29 and 30 are novel and inventive over Briles, Armour, and Rath, and that the rejection of Claims 5, 6, 18, 19, 29 and 30 on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Armour and further in view of Rath should be withdrawn.

Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Briles, further in view of Breed, which was cited as disclosing a rounded groove and flange. Claims 11 and 12 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 24 and

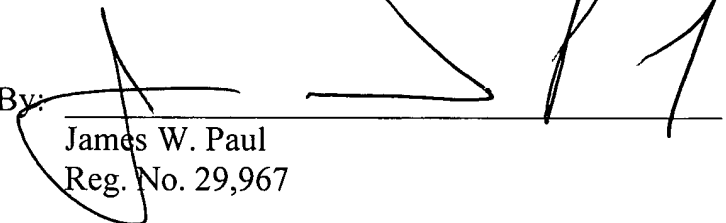


depend from Claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that Briles and Breed do not teach, disclose or suggest an internal sealing insert adapted to be tightly sealed entirely in the well of a swage collar between an internal shoulder of the swage collar and the shaft of the fastener in engagement with the fastener when installed, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 are novel and inventive over Briles and Breed, and that the rejection of Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 on the grounds of obviousness from Briles in view of Breed should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
James W. Paul
Reg. No. 29,967

JWP/rvw

Encls.: Return Postcard

Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
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